

Present: Dwight Baker; Laila Barr; Ray Day, Jr.; Dave Elliott; Miranda Leidich, vice-chair; Carla Saulter; Tina Shereen; Roger Thordarson

Excused: Dan Chavre; Joan Michaels; Ed Miller; Anirudh Sahni, chair

Staff: Barbara de Michele, Community Relations Planner; Kevin Desmond, General Manager; Wayne Watanabe, IT Acting Manager; Darwin Campbell, Customer Service Manager; Anna Clemenger, Community Relations Editor

Guests: Rachel Livingston, Jon Morgan (City of Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Committee)

Vice-chair Leidich opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m., replacing Anirudh Sahni who remains in India due to the death of his father.

Website and Trip Planner Letter of Recommendation

Saulter introduced a draft letter of recommendation for improvements to the Metro website and Trip Planner. Following a brief discussion by the TAC, Desmond, Watanabe, Campbell and Clemenger joined members for a discussion of the recommendations, possibilities for implementation, associated costs and implications for the agency. Desmond offered to arrange a meeting for TAC representatives with Regional Transit Committee chair and King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn. At the close of the discussion, Thordarson moved/Elliott seconded that the TAC accept the letter with suggested modifications and that members of the TAC meet with General Manager Kevin Desmond and Councilmember Reagan Dunn to present the letter. The motion passed unanimously. [see attached revised letter]. The website sub-committee will also assemble and attach a packet of research materials and examples for transmission to Desmond and Dunn.

Transit Now Discussion

Service Planning Supervisor David Hull engaged the TAC in a discussion of current issues facing Metro and its implementation of the Transit Now package approved by voters in 2006. Hull said that 100,000 hours will be added to Metro service by the end of 2008. In addition, the agency is working to improve service to 12 “developing areas,” mostly in far East and south King County. The first implementation will take place in September along the I-90 corridor and East Kent Hill/Covington, with minor improvements to service occurring in Maple Valley, Duvall, and Enumclaw. Metro has made strong progress in its Transit Now Partnership Program, with 13 partnerships approved for a total of 150,000 additional hours of service through 2013. RapidRide service is “on target” for introduction in 2010 (Pacific Highway), 2011 (West Seattle and Bellevue-Redmond), 2012 (Ballard) and 2013 (Aurora). Hull also outlined an array of service improvements planned for Seattle through Transit Now and state mitigation funding through the Alaskan Way Viaduct project.

Hull acknowledged the problems presented by the current dramatic increase in diesel gas prices. At this time, both Kevin Desmond and King County Executive Ron Sims have vowed that price increases will not obstruct implementation of Transit Now. The agency is actively seeking solutions to the financial problems posed by the current situation. Under current projections, Metro is facing a \$16 to \$20 million deficit that must be resolved either through increased funding or agency cuts.

Committee Business

- Miller was elected vice-chair (to serve as chair in October, November and December). Leidich assumes the chairmanship for July, August and September.
- De Michele said that Elliott, Shereen and Saulter will be eligible to serve a second full term each. She will submit the renewal paperwork to the Executive's office.
- Metro will recruit for new TAC members, recognizing that openings are available in Districts 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8. Ray, the only at-large member of the TAC, inquired about the possibility of a second at-large appointment by the Executive.
- De Michele will contact Miller to see if he can attend the June 25th meeting of the Regional Transit Committee.

Leidich adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.